

The principal criticism whose justice Mr. Rhoads denies, was upon his lack of care and thoroughness. Many further evidences of this might be shown, were it not too well illustrated by his own admissions in the 8th, 11th, and 13th paragraphs of the present letter, and by the fact that not even now, in writing it, did he take the trouble to extend his 'bibliographical researches' to such publications, for instance, as the Bulletin of the Nuttall Club and the Bulletin of the American Museum. They would have supplied him with records of several of the birds which he selects to confound his reviewer. The following are records for all the species he names:—

Aythya americana — Hubbard, Zoe, III, 142.

Colymbus holboëllii — Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. N. II, III, 129, 155.

Larus brachyrhynchus — Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. N. II, III, 130, 155.

Totanus flavipes — Townsend, 'Narrative,' 335.

Falco columbarius suckleyi — Brewster, Bull. N. O. C., VII, 227.

Cypseloides niger — Hubbard, Zoe, III, 143.

What he says about the lack of an exact type locality for *Chætura vauxii* and for *Dryobates pubescens gairdnerii*, has nothing to do with the case. *Chætura vauxii*, Townsend explicitly states, came from the Columbia River, and Audubon (for it was he who described the Woodpecker—not Townsend as Mr. Rhoads has it) gives the same source for his type.

More might have been said concerning his discussion of certain subspecies, but it is hardly worth while. If Mr. Rhoads really does not care "the toss of a penny" for "the fiat of a Committee on Nomenclature" as to the value of his "determinations on the status" of such forms as *Melospiza lincolni striata* and *Sylvania pusilla pileolata*, it is perhaps fortunate for his peace of mind.—C. F. BATCHELDER.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. AUSTIN F. PARK, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Troy, New York, September 22, 1893, aged 68 years. Mr. Park was born in Canaan, Columbia County, N. Y., May 11, 1825, and after a preparatory education entered the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, from which he was graduated in 1841 with the degree of Civil Engineer. He remained, however, for some time longer at the Institute, as a student of chemistry, geology, botany and natural history. Later he was engaged in engineering and surveying, and afterwards as a mathematical and philosophical instrument maker, and was

a successful inventor. Later in life he became a solicitor of patents, which profession he followed until the illness which caused his death. Throughout his life he was an earnest student of natural history, and was especially interested in ornithology. He was one of the founders of the Troy Scientific Association, before which he gave many addresses on scientific subjects. His collection of birds is one of the finest private collections in the State, it including most of the species found in eastern North America. He was especially interested in the study of the brains of birds, of which he prepared many dissections, and accumulated an extensive series of observations on the relative weight of the brain, and of its different parts, in various species. It is to be regretted that he neglected to publish the results of these investigations in some scientific journal, as was his intention. His ornithological publications are mainly limited to scattered notes in various ornithological or other natural history journals, and articles in the Troy 'Times' newspaper.

He is spoken of by those who best knew him as a kindly, genial man, who possessed the affection of a wide circle of friends.

MR. BENJAMIN F. GOSS, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., died at his home in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, July 6, 1893, aged 70 years. Although Capt. Goss published very little, he is well known to a wide circle of ornithologists as an enthusiastic and careful collector, especially of birds' nests and eggs, and through his extensive correspondence with publishing ornithologists many of his valuable observations have long since found their way into the literature of ornithology. He was a valued correspondent of the late Dr. Brewer, and frequent contributions from his pen are acknowledged by Captain Bendire in his 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' and by his brother, the late Colonel N. S. Goss, in his 'Birds of Kansas.' The brothers Goss were devotedly attached to each other and shared many expeditions in company in pursuit of ornithological treasures. As recorded by Col. Goss in inscribing to his brother his 'History of the Birds of Kansas,' Mr. B. F. Goss's collection of North American eggs and nests is well known as one of the most important private collections in the West, which of late has been on exhibition in the Milwaukee Public Museum.

MR. CHARLES F. ADAMS, of Champaign, Ill., a zoölogical collector of wide experience and a superior taxidermist, one of the Associate Members of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly in Chicago, May 20, 1893, of congestion of the brain. He was engaged at the time on the installation of the ornithological exhibit of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History in the Illinois State building at the Columbian Exposition,—an exhibit to whose preparation he had devoted eighteen months of continuous labor.

Mr. Adams was born Aug. 23, 1857, near Champaign, Illinois, and received his early education in a country school. In 1876 he entered the University of Illinois, devoting much time to taxidermy. While an undergraduate he made a successful collecting trip to Florida in the interest of

the University museum. Continuing his studies as he found time, he graduated from the School of Natural History in 1883. Two years were then spent by him in the service of Ward's Museum, after which he was occupied for a short time in Washington, and did some excellent work for the Smithsonian Institution. He next went to Auckland, New Zealand, where he served for three years as taxidermist to the curator of the city museum. At the expiration of this engagement he made a tour for study and collection in Northeast Borneo, where he accumulated valuable material, chiefly birds and mammals, and did considerable work for the Auckland Museum. His unassuming narratives of the experiences of this trip possessed a peculiar and absorbing charm, and were a rare treat to those privileged to listen to them. Returning to America by way of London, he occupied his time in the service of the University of Illinois, and in mounting and disposing of his Bornean and New Zealand collections. The greater part of these went to the above University, to the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum, and to the Museum of the city of Milwaukee, but a considerable part of these most excellent collections remained in his possession at the time of his death. In 1890 he made a joint expedition with Dr. Baur, of Clark University, to the Galapagos Islands, where he spent six months in energetic collecting, securing material of exceptional value. Upon his return he immediately undertook the preparation of the exhibit on which he was at work at the time of his death.

Mr. Adams's principal contributions to the literature of ornithology are contained in a paper on the birds of Northeast Borneo, based on his collections, and published by Mr. D. G. Elliot.

Not only was he a close and devoted student of nature, and a successful collector, but also a man of sterling qualities; and his frank, genial, and modest disposition won enduring friendships for him wherever he went.

THE ELEVENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., beginning Monday, November 20, 1893, and continuing the following days. The meetings will be held in the Nash lecture-room in the University Museum, Oxford St.

In accordance with a vote to that effect at the last Congress, an evening session will be held on Monday evening, for the election of officers and members and the transaction of routine business, so that Tuesday, usually employed for this purpose, may be wholly given up to the reading and discussion of scientific papers. Members intending to present papers are requested to send the titles of the same to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., at least not later than November 15, in order to facilitate the preparation of a program of papers to be read before the Congress.

Members who wish lodgings secured for them in Cambridge during the Congress are requested to send their names, before November 1 if possible, to Mr. Montague Chamberlain, Harvard University, Cambridge.

IT HAS recently been announced that "a Congress on Birds will be held in Chicago during the month of October under the auspices of the World's

Congress Auxiliary." It is the design of the committee having the matter in hand "to have the Congress treat of birds from the standpoints of the scientist, the economist and the humanitarian." It is "the wish of the committee to enlist the co-operation of scientists in the proposed Congress, in order that the study and culture of birds may become more general and may be appreciated at its true worth by the people. The true scientist only can prove the value and interest that lie in the department of ornithology, and in its appreciation does the importance of the two other divisions depend. The audiences of the Congress," says the circular of the committee, "will doubtless be largely composed of those who, through æsthetic and humane sympathy rather than intellectual appreciation, have been attracted to the subject, and they will prove a fertile soil for the popularizing of the science."

While technical papers would obviously be out of place, there is room for a wide range of semi-popular communications adapted to interest and educate the mixed audiences that will attend the Congress. The committee solicits especially those of a practical character, bearing upon the rearing and taming of song birds, methods of promoting the increase of beneficial species, and especially of checking the indiscriminate slaughter of useful and beautiful varieties, including the subject of legislation for their preservation.

The time designated for the Congress is the week beginning October 16. It is hoped that ornithologists will render any aid in their power to make the occasion a success. There is a general Committee of six, with Dr. Elliott Coues as Chairman and Prof. S. A. Forbes as Vice-chairman, and a Woman's Committee of six, with E. Irene Rood as Chairman. The Advisory Council has not yet been announced.

WE HAVE recently received Volume I of Mr. Henry Nehrling's English edition of his great work on North American birds. It forms a quarto of over 400 pages, with 18 colored plates, and in point of typography is an elegant example of book-making. As is known to many readers of 'The Auk,' the work has for some time been appearing in Parts (see *Auk*, VII, p. 78, etc.), and now that the first half has been gathered into book form the author improves the occasion to make known more definitely than heretofore, apparently, the exact scope of his enterprise. It appears also that a change has been decided upon in the title, which is now 'Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty.' The author further says in his preface: "The title does not give the reader a full idea of the scope and contents of the work. It treats of all our native birds from the Thrushes to the Parrots, including all our Songbirds, Flycatchers, Hummingbirds, Swifts, Goatsuckers, Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Trogons, and Cuckoos, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Alaska and Labrador to Florida and Mexico." The work "is intended to fill the gap between the very expensive and the merely technical ornithological books," and "to combine accuracy and reliability of biography with a minimum of technical description." There is evidently a field for such a work, which Mr. Nehrling's book seems well adapted to fill,

THE following Post Office news item will doubtless be of interest to many readers of 'The Auk.' "A proposition submitted by the Postmaster General to the International Postal Bureau to admit specimens of natural history to the international mails at the postage rate and conditions applying to 'samples of merchandise' has been rejected by a vote of the countries composing the Universal Postal Union, and consequently all such specimens (except those addressed to Canada or Mexico) must be fully prepaid at letter rates; and *dried animals and insects* cannot be sent under any conditions, being absolutely excluded by the provisions of the Universal Postal Union Convention, regardless of the amount of postage prepaid thereon. 'This will prevent the exchange of such specimens between collectors, natural history museums, etc., by international mails, and no package *known* to contain them can be accepted at a post office for mailing to foreign countries. Natural history specimens (other than dried animals and insects) may be sent to Canada as 'merchandise' at one cent an ounce. They may also be sent by parcel post to Mexico and to all other countries with which the United States has parcels post conventions."

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD has issued a prospectus of a new journal of natural history in connection with his museum at Tring, England, to be entitled 'Novitates Zoologicae.' It will be imperial octavo in size, and form an annual volume of about 400 to 600 pages, with ten to fifteen plates. It will contain articles on insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and fishes, and also on general zoölogy and palaeontology. The parts will appear at irregular intervals, beginning with January, 1894. Subscriptions (21 shillings yearly) may be addressed to Ernst Hartert, Zoölogical Museum, Tring, Herts, England.

The collections forming Mr. Rothschild's museum were begun in 1875, and the building containing the collections was started in 1888 and first opened to the public Sept. 1, 1892. In November of the same year the well-known ornithologist, Mr. Ernst Hartert, was given the general curatorship. The museum contains two distinct departments, the 'Public Galleries' and the 'Student's Department.' The former contains large collections of mounted specimens in all departments of zoölogy; the latter is "entirely devoted to ornithology, coleoptera and lepidoptera." The birds already number about 40,000 skins, representing over 7000 species.

R. H. PORTER, the London publisher, has issued a prospectus of a work entitled 'The Avifauna of Laysan and the neighboring islands; with a complete history of the Birds of the Hawaiian Possessions,' by the Hon. Walter Rothschild. It will be illustrated with 46 colored and 8 black plates by Messrs. Keulemans and Frohawk, and 18 colotype photographs, the latter "showing various phases of bird-life and landscape." The edition will be limited to 250 copies, and no separate parts will be sold. The book will be published in three parts, imperial quarto, at £3 3 s. per part.